AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1 to 17 (Canceled).

A1

18. (New) A system for validating connection-related communications data collected by a digital switching exchange, comprising the following features:

at least one test unit linkable to the digital switching exchange and including a first memory unit for storing dedicated communications elements, a device for initiating the establishment of at least one dedicated test-communications connection, a device for producing a connection-related reference data record from corresponding communications elements, and a starting and an ending time of the communications connection, a device for transmitting the connection-related communications elements to the digital switching exchange;

the digital switching exchange which functions in response to the received connection-related communications elements to establish the relevant test communications connection;

a system evaluator assigned to the at least one test unit and to the digital switching exchange, including a device for comparing contents of the connection-related reference data record to contents of each respective connection-related communications data record belonging thereto,

wherein the digital switching exchange has a device for generating a plurality of communications data records for the respective test communications connection, and the system evaluator has a device for recognizing communications data records which are assigned to any test communications connection, and a comparator compares each of the communications data records that correspond to the respective reference data record.

19. (New) The test system as recited in claim 18, wherein the system evaluator further includes a first device for converting a format of the reference data record into a predefined data record format and a second device for converting a format of each communications data record into the predefined record format.

20. (New) The test system as recited in claim 18, wherein each communications data record includes a plurality of predefined data fields which are each assigned a predefined range of values; and the system evaluator is designed to verify a structure of each communications data record and to verify each data field to determine whether the respective communications data contained in the corresponding data field is within a range of values in question.

21. (New) The test system as recited in claim 18, wherein the system evaluator has a device for verifying at least one of: a) whether each communications data record generated in the digital switching exchange belongs to an established test communications connection; and b) whether at least one communications data record has been generated for an established test communications connection.

22. (New) The test system as recited in claim 18, wherein in comparing one of contents of a predefined data field and contents of a plurality of predefined data fields of the reference data record to one of contents of a data field and contents of a plurality of data fields of each corresponding communications data record, the comparator of the system evaluator allowing for a preset tolerance range.

23. (New) The test system as recited in claim 18, wherein each test unit includes a buffer device for temporarily storing a generated reference data record, and the digital switching exchange includes a buffer device for temporarily storing each generated, connection-related communications data record.

24. (New) A system evaluator for use in a test system, comprising:

at least one interface for linking a system evaluator to a digital switching exchange;

at least one interface for linking the system evaluator to a test unit, including a device for recognizing interrelated communications data records which are assigned to a test communications connection, and a device for comparing the contents of a connection-related reference data record produced by the test unit to the contents of each communications data record of interrelated communications data records produced by the digital switching exchange with regard to a test communications connection.

25. (New) The system evaluator as recited in claim 24, further comprising:

a first device for converting format of the reference data record into a predefined record format; and

a second device for converting format of each communications data record into the predefined record format.

26. (New) The system evaluator as recited in claim 24, wherein each communications data record includes a plurality of predefined data fields, which are each assigned a predefined range of values; and the system evaluator is designed to verify the structure of the communications data record and to verify each data field to determine whether the communications data contained in one data field are within a range of values in question.

27. (New) The system evaluator as recited in claim 24, wherein the system evaluator has a device for verifying at least one of: a) whether each communications data record generated in the digital switching exchange belongs to an established test communications connection; and b) whether at least one communications data record has been generated for an established test communications connection.

28. (New) The system evaluator as recited in claim 24, wherein in comparing the contents of one or of a plurality of predefined data fields of the reference data record to the contents of one or a plurality of data fields of each corresponding communications data record, a comparator of the system evaluator allows for a preset tolerance range.

29. (New) A method for validating connection-related communications data collected by a digital switching exchange, comprising the following steps:

a) storing a plurality of communications elements in at least one test unit capable of being linked to a digital switching exchange;

b) initiating the establishment of at least one dedicated test-communications connection at the test unit;

c) transmitting the connection-related communications elements to the digital switching exchange;

d) establishing the relevant test communications connection in response to the received, connection-related communications elements;

e) generating a reference data record from the connection-related communications elements,

from the beginning and ending instants of the corresponding communications connection in the test unit;

f) generating a plurality of interrelated and connection-related communications data records in the digital switching exchange;

g) following the connection cleardown, the reference data record and each communications data record of the corresponding test communications connection are transmitted to a system evaluator;

h) recognizing interrelated communications data records which are assigned to the test communications connection; and

i) comparing contents of the connection-related reference data record to contents of each of the interrelated communications data records.

30. (New) The method as recited in claim 29, wherein, prior to the comparison step h, a format of the reference data record and a format of each communications data record are converted into a uniform format.

31. (New) The method as recited in claim 29, wherein each communications data record includes a plurality of data fields; a predefined range of values is assigned to each data field; and, in the system evaluator, a structure of each communications data record and of each data field is checked to determine whether the communications elements contained in each data field are within the range of values in question.

32. (New) The method as recited in claim 31, wherein a communications data record is indicated as being faulty when: its contents cannot be assigned to the contents of the corresponding reference data record; its structure does not correspond to a predetermined structure; and the communications data contained in a data field are not within a range of values assigned to the data field.